

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2273

E. O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: SURVIABILITY OF NATO HEADQUARTERS

SUMMARY. DURING POLADS MAY 4 DISCUSSION OF NATO HEADQUARTERS SURVIVABILITY, FRG REP PROPOSED THAT STUDY FOCUS ON POSSIBILITY OF SENDING DCM' S OF NATO DELEGATIONS TO ALTERNATE SITE IN EUROPE AT TIME OF CRISIS. US REP OBJECTED THAT THIS VARIATION HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED AND REJECTED (USNATO 991, PARA 3), AND FRG REP AGREED TO ALLOW POLADS REPORT TO COEC TO GO FORWARD WITH INDICATION THAT AT LEAST ONE DELEGATION DID NOT CONCUR. TEXT OF POLADS REPORT IS TRANSMITTED BELOW. ACTION REQUESTED: WE ASSUME THAT WASHINGTON CAN ACCEPT POLADS REPORT. SUBJECT WILL BE ON MAY 15 POLADS AGENDA. END SUMMARY.

1. FRG REP OBSERVED THAT DRAFT POLADS REPORT IGNORED MANY POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES, AND HE SAID BONN FAVORED A SOLUTION WHEREBY DCM' S OF NATO DELEGATIONS WOULD RELOCATE AT SOME SITE IN EUROPE SHORTLY BEFORE PRESENT HEADQUARTERS BECAME INOPERATIVE. THIS WOULD, FRG REP ARGUED, AVOID CONFUSION WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM HAVING SECOND, PARALLEL COUNCIL DURING PEACETIME AND WOULD ENSURE THAT ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED.

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SENTED ON ALTERNATE COUNCIL BY PEOPLE EXPERIENCED IN NATO AFFAIRS. FRG REP SAID BONN DID NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY OBJECTIONS PREVIOUSLY VOICED TO THIS SOLUTION, I. E., THAT SENDING DCM' S AWAY WOULD DEPRIVE NATO DELEGATIONS OF VALUABLE PERSONNEL AT

TIME THEY WERE MOST NEEDED AND THAT SUCH A MOVE COULD BE SEEN AS PROVOCATION IN WHAT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE HIGHLY CHARGED POLITICAL SITUATION.

2. US REP POINTED OUT THAT SOLUTION PROPOSED BY FRG HAD ALREADY BEEN REJECTED BY COMMITTEE AND SUGGESTED THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION IN POLADS WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE. AS ALTERNATIVE, US REP SUGGESTED THAT FRG RESERVE, WHICH HE SAID HE ASSUMED WAS SHARED FOR DIFFERENT REASONS BY FRANCE, BE NOTED IN TEXT SENT TO COEC. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, THIS SOLUTION WAS TENTATIVELY APPROVED BY COMMITTEE. TEXT OF REPORT IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WAS ASKED BY THE COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND EXERCISE COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 24 OF C- M(71)76(2 ND REVISE). SUCH A REQUEST WAS FORESEEN IN PARAGRAPH 26(4) OF THE SAME DOCUMENT, AS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL ON 24 TH APRIL, 1972.

2. THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WAS NOT ASKED TO CONSIDER, AND DID NOT CONSIDER, THE QUESTION OF PROTECTION, INCLUDING RELOCATION, MOBILITY OR HARDENING. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WAS NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL, WHEN IT APPROVED THE DOCUMENT IN QUESTION, AND SPECIFICALLY PARAGRAPH 14, IN EFFECT DECIDED THAT, " AS REGARDS THE QUESTION OF PHYSICALLY PROTECTING OR RELOCATING THE COUNCIL/ DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION, ... FOR POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS, A EUROPEAN SOLUTION IS TO BE PREFERRED."

3. THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE ACCORDINGLY REACHED THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSION, SUBJECT OF COURSE TO CONFIRMATION BY THE COUNCIL:

SHOULD THE COUNCIL/ DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION BE UNABLE
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FOR ANY REASON TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS, THE CHIEFS OF ALLIED DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN THE CAPITAL OF A MEMBER COUNTRY TO BE DECIDED UPON (POSSIBLY IN WASHDC), MEETING UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR HIS DEPUTY, COULD APPROPRIATELY ASSUME THE ROLE, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE IX OF THE TREATY. SOME DELEGATIONS DID NOT AGREE AND ONE DELEGATION SUGGESTED THAT OTHER SOLUTIONS BE CONSIDERED BY COEC.

END TEXT

3. COMMENT: POLADS INABILITY REACH AGREEMENT ON POLITICAL ASPECTS OF SURVIVABILITY QUESTION REFLECTS BASIC DISAGREEMENT

AMONG ALLIES REGARDING ALTERNATIVES TO BE FOLLOWED IN EVENT
PRESENT SITE INOPERABLE. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE ABOVE TEXT
IS BEST POSSIBLE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES AND RECOMMEND ITS APPROVAL.
RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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